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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,175	12/07/2004	Keith Grundon	AEL-4	5699

7590 03/20/2006

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EXAMINER

IMAS, VLADIMIR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H-1A

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/517,175	Applicant(s) GRUNDON, KEITH	
	Examiner Vladimir Imas	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink (page 1, line 13) and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (US 5,516,298).

Regarding claim 1, Smith, fig. 2 - 8, discloses a desk attachment, which includes: a base unit 40 including a communication bus 55', 61 having a communication port for connection to at least one remote signal source; and a plurality of user modules 72 for attachment to the base unit such that they are electrically connected with the bus, each module having a PC port 48 (central unit) for connection with a local computer and at least one peripheral port 48 (right unit) for connection with a user interface device, said ports being arranged such that a computer on the PC port is operably connected to the or each peripheral port and the bus.

Regarding claim 2, Smith discloses the base unit includes a channel-shaped

Art Unit: 2839

chassis 70 for receiving the user modules.

Regarding claim 3, Smith discloses the channel-shaped chassis includes a base wall 46 for attachment to a desk, with upstanding front 44 and rear walls 33'.

Regarding claim 4, Smith discloses the base unit includes a duct 81, 82 to contain the communication bus.

Regarding claim 5, Smith discloses the base unit includes a channel-shaped chassis for receiving the user modules, the channel-shaped chassis includes a base wall for attachment to a desk, with upstanding front and rear walls, and the duct is formed at the junction between the base and rear walls.

Regarding claim 6, Smith discloses the duct is provided with a plurality of bus connectors 55', 61 engagement by the user modules.

Regarding claim 7 Smith discloses the bus connectors are mounted in spaced positions along the duct.

Regarding claim 8 Smith discloses each user module includes a housing which positively locates within the chassis (formed by side walls 71 and front face 72).

Regarding claim 9 Smith discloses the peripheral ports are mounted on an upper face of the housing which is exposed when the user module is received in the chassis.

Regarding claim 10 Smith discloses the channel-shaped chassis includes a base wall for attachment to a desk, with upstanding front and rear walls, and each PC port is aligned with an aperture in the front wall.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

✓

Examiner
Vladimir Imas
03/13/2006



TULSIDAS C. PATEL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER